



Spilyay Tymoo

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Tribes well represented at hearings

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

During the recent gorge casino hearings, members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs spoke of the need for the project.

"Our people are in poverty, even while they work," said Tribal Councilman Austin Greene, during the hearing at Hood River. "There are too many sub-standard homes housing multiple families. There are health problems without adequate care."

With the gorge casino project, he said, "We are looking at survival. The

draft environmental impact statement indicates that the Cascade Locks site is the one that will meet our needs."

Some members — Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, and language teacher Arlita Rhoads for instance — spoke of the history of the bands that make up the tribes, and where they are from, namely the areas now called the Ceded Lands.

Tribal member Darlene Foster said, "Our people gave up all the land that is Cascade Locks and Hood River and The Dalles."

Addressing an earlier statement by an opponent, who said he would maybe

cry if one day he were to see a casino at Cascade Locks, Foster said, "Our people cried all the way from here (Hood River) to Kah-Nee-Ta, where they were herded. How would the people here feel if all they were given was trouble for their land?"

Some tribal members talked about the distance from Cascade Locks to the reservation, for purposes of commuting. Jaylyn Suppah said that Simnasho area students attending Madras schools commute about two and a half hours a day, sometimes more.

The youngest person to testify during the hearings was Jake Frank, age 8,

who said he supported the casino because his great grandfather, the late Warren R. Clements, had worked many years for the gorge casino.

From elders to younger people, the tribal members who testified were for the most part very much in favor of the gorge casino.

"It was exciting to see the number of tribal members at each of the five hearings," said Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah. Even at the hearing in Portland, he said, there were many tribal members in attendance.

"I appreciate the membership's participation and engagement in the DEIS

process," he said.

The casino siting process, Suppah said, still has some way to go, "And I hope we keep up the momentum."

He reminded people that the written public comment period is open until May 15. People can comment by writing to Stanley Speaks, Northwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232; or fax: 503-231-2275. The BIA does not currently have e-mail access due to court action, but comments can be submitted at the website: gorgecasinoeis.com.

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Big slide opens



The new slide is open at the Village Pool at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

The corkscrew slide is 184 feet long, and opened to the public last week, during Tribal Member Appreciation Day.



Selena Boise photos

Foreign delegation visits reservation

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

A delegation from the Middle East and Northern African visited Warm Springs this week as part of their cross-country tour of the United States.

Six representatives from five different countries—including Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and Bahrain—came to Warm Springs after arriving in Portland as part of a much larger trip across the United States. During their time in Warm Springs, the group had the opportunity to have a traditional lunch hosted by the Senior Program, meet with Tribal Council, and tour the Museum at Warm Springs.

The delegation traveled with two interpreters from the U.S. State Department. According to one interpreter, Nabil Tohme, the representatives come from different walks of life and "All contribute to the interfaith dialect between Christians, Muslims, and Jewish people in the Middle East."

Some hold government offices, while some do not, Tohme added. All were invited to tour the country by the U.S. State Department within a program called the International Visitors Program.

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Calica joins Indian law firm

Tribal member Direlle Calica has joined the law offices of Schaff & Clark-Deschene, a firm that specializes in Indian law throughout the West.

The firm has offices in Colorado, Arizona and Portland, Oregon.

Calica is working in the Portland office, serving the tribes of the Northwest. She focuses on energy development, land-use, telecommunications and regulatory issues in Indian country.

"I am really enjoying learning energy issues," she said. "It is a complex and important area, and of emerging importance for tribes."

Indian tribes, she said, are presently impacted by energy issues, but will be even more so in the future.

"In particular with their own energy resources and projects," she said, "but also with other energy-related matters. This is a very exciting time in the tribal



Direlle Calica

energy arena and I am glad to have this opportunity."

Oil and gas, and wind farm development in Indian country are areas of

expertise of Schaff & Clark-Deschene.

The firm was established 15 years ago, and is Indian owned.

Calica is originally from Warm Springs, and is a graduate of Portland State University, and the Lewis & Clark School of Law. She is licensed to practice law in Washington.

After law school, starting in 2005, she worked as tribal liaison for the Northwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

She was the Corps of Engineers liaison to tribes in the 14 states of the Northwestern region, which includes over 100 federally recognized Indian tribes. The focus of her work was on natural resources and energy, among other areas.

She joined Schaff & Clark-Deschene a month ago.

— by Dave McMechan

Change in Culture Camp focuses on helping families

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The annual 4-H Culture Camp will undergo several key changes this year, including the change from a youth camp to a family camp.

Though the name is the same, this year Culture and Heritage and the OSU extension 4-H programs are working together to transform the camp into an event aimed at helping families.

According to Myra Johnson, director of Culture and Heritage, the camp needed to be revived due to a lack of enrollment. Because of that, and also because of a lack of activities for local families, they decided to open up the event to more than just the local youth.

This way, she added, it will be a family-strengthening event.

According to Shawn Morford, staff chair and 4-H agent for OSU extension, they also plan to include professional counselors during the event in case families choose to take advantage of their services.

Another plan is to specifically invite families who have been affected by the closure of the local mill, and help their families become stronger during a difficult time.

"We want to be able to address those types of issues too," Johnson explained.

Part of the reasoning behind changing the camp to a family camp, Morford said, is that while many local activities focus on youth, "There aren't that many activities like this for families." The goal of the camp is to strengthen both families and culture, she added.

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